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Remarks

In view of the above amendments to the claims and the following discussion, the applicants submit that the claims now pending in the application are not anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102, or obvious under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 103. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

OBJECTIONS

A. Claims 2 and 7

Claims 2 and 7 are objected to for informalities. In particular, claims 2 and 7 have an extra period. The applicants have amended claims 2 and 7 to delete the extra period using braces (using a strikethrough it was not apparent that the periods were deleted).

REJECTIONS

A. 35 U. S. C. § 102

1. Claims 1-5 are not anticipated by Rogers

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hayes et al. (U. S. Patent 6,223,348 issued April 24, 2001). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claims 1-5 relate to a universal remote control (see, the specification at page 1, lines 9-10). The remote control 1 includes a plurality of keypads arranged in a plurality of groupings 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 based on functionality wherein all groupings in the plurality of groupings has a different shape (see,

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FIG. 1A and the specification at page 3, lines 8-15), wherein the shape and location of the keypads in each grouping enable a user to operate the universal remote control, and wherein a grouping of keypads for navigation keys 40 is located centrally on the remote 1 (see, FIG. 1A and the specification at page 6, lines 6-12).

Hayes et al. describes a remote control (see, Hayes et al. at column 1, lines 4-5). The remote control 11 includes keypads (see, Hayes et al. at FIG. 1).

Hayes et al. does not describe or suggest a universal remote control including a plurality of keypads arranged in a plurality of groupings based on functionality, wherein all grouping in the plurality of groupings has a different shape, wherein the shape and location of the keypads in each grouping enable a user to operate the universal remote control, and wherein a grouping of keypads for navigation keys is located centrally on the remote. Rather, Hayes et al. only teaches a remote control with keypads located thereon. Since, Hayes et al. does not describe or suggest a universal remote control including a plurality of keypads arranged in a plurality of groupings based on functionality, wherein all groupings in the plurality of groupings has a different shape, wherein the shape and location of the keypads in each grouping enable a user to operate the universal remote control, and wherein a grouping of keypads for navigation keys is located centrally on the remote, claim 1 is patentable over Hayes et al.

Claims 2 -5 depend directly from claim 1. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 1, claims 2-5 are also patentable over Hayes et al.

B. 35 U. S. C. § 103

1. Claims 6-11 are not unpatentable over Hayes et al.

Claims 6-11 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayes et al. (U. S. Patent 6,223,348 issued April 24, 2001).

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The applicants submit that these claims are not rendered obvious by this reference.

Claims 6-11 relate to a universal remote control system (see, the specification at page 1, lines 9-10). The remote control 1 includes a plurality of keypads arranged in a plurality of groupings 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 based on functionality wherein all groupings in the plurality of groupings has a different shape (see, FIG. 1A and the specification at page 3, lines 8-15), wherein the shape and location of the keypads in each grouping enable a user to operate the universal remote control, and wherein a grouping of keypads for navigation keys 40 is located centrally on the remote 1 (see, FIG. 1A and the specification at page 6, lines 6-12).

Hayes et al. describes a remote control (see, Hayes et al. at column 1, lines 4-5). The remote control 11 includes keypads (see, Hayes et al. at FIG. 1).

Hayes et al. does not describe or suggest a universal remote control including a plurality of keypads arranged in a plurality of groupings based on functionality, wherein all grouping in the plurality of groupings has a different shape, wherein the shape and location of the keypads in each grouping enable a user to operate the universal remote control, and wherein a grouping of keypads for navigation keys is located centrally on the remote. Rather, Hayes et al. only teaches a remote control with keypads located thereon. Since, Hayes et al. does not describe or suggest a universal remote control including a plurality of keypads arranged in a plurality of groupings based on functionality, wherein all groupings in the plurality of groupings has a different shape, wherein the shape and location of the keypads in each grouping enable a user to operate the universal remote control, and wherein a grouping of keypads for navigation keys is located centrally on the remote, claim 6 is patentable over Rogers.

Claims 7-11 depend directly from claim 6. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 6, claims 7-11 are also patentable over Rogers.

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CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims, presently in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102, or obvious under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 103. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of the claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring continuation of the adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609) 734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


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